

I have since looked into this idea and want to draw your attention to a structure that has been in place for a while that is quite similar to the NATO group. In 1974, Congress established the Congressional Advisers for Trade Policy and Negotiations, a trade policy and negotiations oversight body that remains in place today. This is a bipartisan group of official Congressional advisers, designated by the Leadership, that is accredited to our trade delegations and kept informed on matters affecting trade policy, including ongoing negotiations. I am including with this letter a summary of how the procedure works.

I am fully committed to ensuring that the Congressional trade advisor system works effectively to ensure that Congress is both fully informed and consulted as we develop and implement U.S. trade policy. I am convinced that the Administration benefits significantly when Congress plays an active and continuing role in formulating our trade policies and objectives. For that reason, the Administration bill and both the Senate and House bills, which I support, include specific language designed to enhance the effectiveness of the Congressional trade adviser system.

While the bills pending in the House and Senate seek to reinvigorate the Congressional Advisers mechanism, I believe that more can be done. Therefore, I would propose the inclusion of an additional title in the fast track bill entitled "Congressional Oversight Groups" that would:

a. Establish for each trade negotiation that the Administration notifies to the Congress under fast track, a specific "Congressional Oversight Group" for that negotiation. The group would be selected by the leadership from among the existing congressional trade advisers, and would be tasked with oversight of, and providing advice to the Trade Representative regarding, the negotiation.

b. Instruct the Trade Representative to work with the Senate and House leadership to develop, within 60 days of enactment, guidelines for interaction between the Administration and Congressional Oversight Groups. The guidelines would be structured to ensure a useful and timely flow of information between the Administration and the Congressional Oversight Group, including at an early stage between the Oversight Group and the Trade Representative to discuss the Administration's objectives and the Group's views.

I hope that you will give serious consideration to this proposal. I would welcome any thoughts that you and other Members may have.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON.●

CHRISTINA A. SNYDER, JUDICIAL NOMINEE FOR THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT IN THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, the U.S. Senate showed its overwhelming support today for Christina Snyder, one of the most qualified legal minds to fill a seat on the Federal bench of the Central District of California. My unwavering confidence in Ms. Snyder arises from respect for her background, education and career. I am very pleased she has been confirmed.

Ms. Snyder is a native of the Los Angeles area, having grown up in the Montebello community in East Los Angeles. She studied in the public elemen-

tary schools of Montebello and Orange County, and was valedictorian of her high school class. She later studied at the University of California at Los Angeles, before transferring to Pomona College where she earned her undergraduate degree. She earned her law degree at Stanford University.

Mr. President, I am sure you are aware Ms. Snyder's legal background is highly respected throughout the State of California. Ms. Snyder has distinguished herself in the legal community of Los Angeles through more than 20 years of law practice. Ms. Snyder began her career working at the Los Angeles law firm of Wyman, Bautzer, Kuchel and Silbert, where she eventually was made a partner. She later went on to become a law partner at two other Los Angeles law firms. Her nomination and election to the highly regarded American Law Institute in 1993 is further evidence of the respect she commands within the legal profession.

Moreover, Ms. Snyder has demonstrated a strong commitment to community service as one of the founding members of Public Counsel, a public interest law firm of the Los Angeles County and Beverly Hills Bar Associations. She also served as the California State Bar designee on the Board of Directors of the Western Center for Law and Poverty.

Again, I am pleased to speak in favor of Ms. Snyder and feel she is a valuable addition to the Federal bench.

FUNDS FOR ROAD EXPANSION TO TRANSPORT HAZARDOUS WASTE

● Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask that the text of a concurrent resolution passed by the Texas Legislature, be printed in the RECORD.

The text of the concurrent resolution follows:

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 202

Whereas, Compliance with international disarmament treaties to curtail the proliferation of nuclear arms and defuse weapons of mass destruction has created new challenges for the United States related to the dismantling and cleanup of nuclear missiles; and

Whereas, The development, production, and disassembling of nuclear weapons produce transuranic waste, a highly radioactive conglomeration of contaminated laboratory gloves, tools, dried sludge, and other substances from testing and production facilities; and

Whereas, To create a safe and environmentally responsible method for permanently disposing of transuranic waste, the United States Department of Energy (DOE) has designed the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in southern New Mexico that will set the standard for deep geologic disposal of defense-related radioactive waste; and

Whereas, The transuranic waste to be deposited at the WIPP facility will be shipped by truck from all across the country, traveling through many states, including Texas, which is a major thoroughfare for radio active materials coming from South Carolina, Tennessee, Illinois, and Ohio; and

Whereas, While a majority of the proposed route through Texas is on Interstate 20, a segment runs along U.S. Highway 285; this

portion of the route, which begins in Pecos, Texas, and continues into New Mexico, is a treacherous and narrow two-lane road; and

Whereas, The State of New Mexico, in a prudent move to protect the public safety of its citizens, has dedicated part of the impact funds received from the DOE for housing the WIPP to widen its section of U.S. 285; this highway is a dangerous and inadequate road that has already been the scene of one accident involving an empty WIPP transport truck; and

Whereas, There are currently no federal funds allocated for the State of Texas to take the same necessary safety precautions by widening the section of U.S. 285 running through our State; the health and safety of United States citizens residing in the Lone Star State is no less important than that of our neighbors to the northwest; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 75th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully request the Congress of the United States to allocate funds for road expansion in Texas along the designated route for transporting hazardous waste to the WIPP project; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate of the United States Congress, and to all members of the Texas delegation to the Congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.●

INDEPENDENCE DAY OF LEBANON CELEBRATION

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today in commemoration of the Lebanese Independence Day Celebration hosted by the Consul General of Lebanon and Mrs. Hassan Muslimani. The nation of Lebanon achieved its independence in 1943. A democratic nation, it is a leader in its region. Lebanon was a founding member of the League of Arab States which has done much to further the goals and interests of the region. Globally, Lebanon has also played a great part in the United Nations, a founding member, and also in the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The nation of Lebanon has faced many challenges, but continues to preserve regardless of foreign and regional obstacles.

Lebanese Americans play an important role in the United States as well. I am always proud of this community's efforts to foster relationships of goodwill. These efforts will go far in enhancing and promoting the Lebanese American community's image and understanding. Recently, the United States' travel ban to Lebanon was lifted, allowing the people of our nations to travel freely. I look forward to future strengthening in ties between the United States and Lebanon.

Again, I would like to wish the greatest of success to the Consul General on his reception, and that it may bring closer our two cultures. Likewise, I am honored to recognize his strong efforts to raise awareness of the Lebanon Independence Day, November 22.●

THE RECOVERY NETWORK

• Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, a California company has embarked on an effort that I believe demonstrates how entrepreneurship and public service can go hand in hand.

The Recovery Network is a new nationwide cable television program dedicated to helping people recover from the devastating disease of addiction. This Santa Monica-based network is the first of its kind and the only broadcast network in the world devoted entirely to substance abuse recovery and prevention.

It is estimated that more than 130 million Americans suffer from or are affected by alcoholism, drug abuse, eating disorders, depression, gambling and other addictions. The Recovery Network offers a lifeline of help to millions of those in need offering group recovery sessions, information on 12-step recovery programs, a 24-hour 800-number help line, discussion shows designed for children of alcoholics and parents with drug abuse problems, and information shows on the pharmacological effects of alcohol and other addictive substances. Recovery Network serves not only those in need of help, but also the friends, families, teachers, and professionals seeking guidance and tools to effect change.

Another important part of the Recovery Network is the localized programming effort. "Neighborhood Recovery" enables local community groups to offer their services through cable programming. Organizations like Californians for Drug-Free Youth, and the Miami Coalition for a Safe and Drug-Free Community can reach out to people in their specific area offering information on local meetings and other resources.

I believe this type of public service programming is exactly what Congress envisioned when it passed the Cable Communications Act in 1984, " * * * to provide the widest possible diversity of information sources and service to the public" and " * * * assure that cable systems are responsive to the needs and interest of the local community."

Community cable became a permanent fixture on the American landscape in 1948. Its purpose was to service remote communities with a master antenna providing a clear television broadcast signal. Three years later, 70 cable systems services 14,000 homes nationally. Since then, cable television has become a vital full-service link to citizens in every city and town in the United States, serving more than 67 million households nationwide.

People suffering from alcohol and drug addiction have found the Recovery Network there to help when they were most in need:

One young couple from Ohio who was traveling and struggling to maintain their sobriety early in recovery happened upon the Recovery Network on their hotel television. They said " * * * we turned you on unknowingly, and it was like an AA meeting right in our

hotel room. It really helped us refocus on what is important, and that is AA and staying sober."

An Indiana viewer wrote "I just want to say thank you for the programs and the light at the end of the tunnel that they showed me."

A Michigan man wrote "Thank you for making such a big difference in my life."

A California woman wrote "When I can't make a meeting, I know you're there for me."

Recovery Network has become a leader in delivering effective programming which provides solutions to these problems in the privacy of the home and in offering positive lifestyle choices as an alternative.

The Recovery Network is supported by every major drug abuse prevention and recovery organization in the Nation, including the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, the National Drug Prevention League, National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors and the National Parents Resource Institute for Drug Education.

Mr. President, I am proud that the Recovery Network is a product of the State of California and I wish them much success in their endeavor. •

TRIBUTE TO DONN TIBBETTS, UNION LEADER STATE HOUSE BUREAU CHIEF, ON HIS RETIREMENT

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. New Hampshire's media corps will suffer a great loss in January 1998 when Donn Tibbetts steps down after 25 years as The Union Leader newspaper's Concord, New Hampshire Bureau Chief. Donn is a New Hampshire institution, and will be missed by all of us who call him our friend.

Donn's career in journalism has spanned nearly 50 years—first as a broadcaster and then, since April 3, 1972, as a reporter and columnist for the Loeb newspapers. He has covered the often-colorful politics of the Granite State, writing the well-known "Under the State House Dome" column. As Dean of the State House press corps, he has been a leader in chronicling presidential primaries, state elections, nine governors, and the State Legislature—the largest in the nation. He has traveled to national conventions for the Democrat and Republican parties, interviewed presidents, and even sat down to talk with me on many occasions! My interviews with Donn always left us sharing a laugh—and the resulting stories were always fair, thorough, and forthright, as is always Donn's style.

Donn's knowledge and expertise about New Hampshire politics is second to none. He is the author of "The Closest U.S. Senate Race in History," a book about the hotly contested, historic election for New Hampshire's U.S. Senate seat in 1974 between John Durkin and Louis Wyman—an election

that was won by one vote, with a subsequent second election being held the following year.

Donn's accomplishments—from sports disk jockey to television host to political columnist—have brought him many accolades from distinguished individuals across the country. The late William Loeb, frank publisher of the Union Leader, said Donn is "a man of great integrity." Former New Hampshire Governor John Sununu said of Donn: "Nobody is fairer and nobody is more of a credit to their profession than Donn. . ."

Donn is originally from Manchester, and then went on to attend Lasalle Military Academy in Long Island, and the University of New Hampshire. He served 28 years in the military and the reserves with the same honor and distinction he has brought to his career as a journalist. He has been a community and civic leader, as well as a dedicated husband, father and grandfather.

Retirement is a time of reflection, and I know that Donn will spend his retirement years enjoying the memories of his rich and fulfilling career. I have been told that he is leaving for Corpus Christi, Texas the day after he retires, to spend time traveling with his wife, Janie, and visiting his seven grandchildren and twin great-granddaughters.

Donn, I wish you all the best for a wonderful retirement. You are a man of character, commitment and dignity. We will all miss you. •

IMF AND US FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO INDONESIA

• Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to express my concern about the current financial crisis in Indonesia and the decision of the United States and the international financial community to provide bailout assistance.

As you know, Mr. President, the International Monetary Fund announced on October 31 that it was putting together a \$23 billion aid package for Jakarta. This money will allow Indonesia to defend its currency, which has depreciated severely in the last few months. The IMF, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the Indonesian government will together provide this \$23 billion in financing.

In addition to the IMF package, several countries, including the United States, are offering "second-line" loan guarantees that Indonesia can use if needed. The Administration has guaranteed a \$3 billion loan to Indonesia as part of the Treasury Department's exchange stabilization fund. This fund is the same one used to loan \$20 billion to Mexico during the peso crisis of 1994 and 1995.

Mr. President, I understand that the Administration hopes the \$23 billion IMF financing will be enough for Indonesia to overcome the present crisis and that Jakarta will not need to draw on the \$3 billion "second-line" loan from the United States. Nevertheless,